

SENATE RESOLUTION 55

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Leona Riff Edwards of Morris Chapel.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Leona Riff Edwards; and

WHEREAS, Leona Edwards was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Nowata County, Oklahoma, Leona Riff Edwards was the daughter of Gilbert and Calla Beal Riff. She was joined in holy matrimony with James Cole Edwards on July 3, 1959; and

WHEREAS, for a number of years, Mrs. Edwards served with acumen and alacrity as a bookkeeper and office manager for Metro Machinery and Southern Electric in Memphis, in which positions she earned the respect of her peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work. She was also employed as a teacher for several years at Memphis Junior Academy; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Edwards was an active and devout member of Savannah Seventh-day Adventist Church, which she served faithfully for many years as treasurer; she had previously served as treasurer at Somerville Seventh-day Adventist Church; and

WHEREAS, Leona Edwards was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Edwards enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband of fifty-seven years, James Cole Edwards, and was the proud mother of Linda Jo Edwards, Bob Edwards, and Gerald Edwards; and

WHEREAS, she was the treasured grandmother of Ginda Folkerts, Zack Folkerts, Robert Edwards, Jon Edwards, Keri Haynes, Brad Edwards, Katie Edwards, Kristin Ward, Alex Edwards, Tyler Edwards, Joseph Edwards, Kaylee Joy Edwards, Kelson Edwards, Kaden Edwards, Josh Edwards, and Amanda Edwards; and great-grandmother of Sky, Harper, Isaiah, A.J., Samantha, and a great-grandson due in March 2017; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by her siblings, Fayrene Attebury, Roland Riff, Violet Bates, Madeline Scott, Gene Riff, and Doris Larmore, Leona Edwards will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by her sisters, Juanita Cochrun and Donna Hults, and her brothers, Alfred and Jim Riff; and

WHEREAS, Leona Edwards leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Leona Riff Edwards, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Edwards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.